

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF DEFECT
INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. 00V-081 by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

MAR 21 2000

Part 573 Report Date: March 17, 2000

MANUFACTURER: Freightliner Corporation

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Gary W. Rossow

FAX: (503) 735-6800

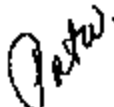
SUBJECT: 12,380 Freightliner 1999-2000 Century Class, FLD, Argosy, and Business Class models built with dual leaf spring type air ride suspensions and manufactured from December 1, 1999 through February 17, 2000, and vehicles built with single leaf spring type air ride suspensions manufactured from December 6, 1999 through February 17, 2000. Rear suspension springs can fracture through the center bolt hole after vehicle assembly. If undetected, the rear end of the spring could separate from the vehicle causing a hazardous road debris situation. Freightliner Campaign No. FL-255.

This is an initial acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

In accordance with Part 577, amended July 7, 1995, a draft owner notification letter must be submitted for review prior to mailing.

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin during May 2000. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by July 30, 2000.

If you have any questions, please call:

 Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst on (202) 366-5232 or
Jonathan White, Chief on (202) 366-5227
or fax on (202) 366-7882
Recall Analysis Division

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MAR 21 2000

Part 573 Report Date: March 17, 2000

MANUFACTURER: Freightliner Corporation

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Gary W. Rossow

FAX: (503) 735-6800

SUBJECT: 9,875 Freightliner 1998-2000 Sterling A-Line and L-Line models with 111", 113", and 122" cabs manufactured from March 1998 through March 16, 2000. The fuel tank steps can develop fatigue cracks due to excessive overhang. Freightliner Campaign No. FL-254.

This is an initial acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

In accordance with Part 577, amended July 7, 1995, a draft owner notification letter must be submitted for review prior to mailing.

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As

Mr. Gary W. Rossow
Director, Government Technical Affairs
Freightliner Corporation
4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland, OR 97217

APR 7 2000

NSA-11paw
00V-081

Dear Mr. Rossow:

We have reviewed Freightliner Corporation's (Freightliner) Defect Information Report dated March 17, 2000, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 12,380 Freightliner 1999-2000 Century Class, FLD, Argosy, and Business Class models built with dual leaf spring type air ride suspensions and manufactured from December 1, 1999 through February 17, 2000, and vehicles built with single leaf spring type air ride suspensions manufactured from December 6, 1999 through February 17, 2000. Rear suspension springs can fracture through the center bolt hole after vehicle assembly. If undetected, the rear end of the spring could separate from the vehicle causing a hazardous road debris situation. The assigned recall identification number for this recall is 00V-081 (*Freightliner Campaign No. FL-255*).

Freightliner is responsible for the remedy of these vehicles from this date forward, regardless of vehicle age, mileage, or ownership.

Quarterly Status Reports

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. *As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin during May 2000.* Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by July 30, 2000.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Wallace at (202) 366-5232 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,



Jonathan D. White, Chief
Recall Analysis Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Safety Assurance